

# TAKOMA PARK MOBILIZATION

## Environment Committee

**Committee:** Environment & Transportation  
**Testimony on:** HB0583 - “Climate Solutions Now”  
**Organization:** Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee  
**Person Submitting:** Diana Younts, Co-chair  
**Position:** Favorable  
**Hearing Date:** February 11, 2021

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

We are testifying today to urge you to vote favorably for HB0583. Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee is a grassroots organization focused on State and County level climate action. We support HB0563 because it would bring Maryland into alignment with the most recent scientific recommendations for addressing climate change, fixes Maryland’s flawed draft greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction plan, ensures that communities disproportionately burdened by environmental pollutants and other hazards are an integral part of the solution to climate change, and provides a just transition for workers. In our testimony, we would like to focus on how the bill also supports Montgomery County’s ambitious Climate Action Plan.

**HB0583 Supports Montgomery County’s Climate Action Plan (CAP):** Montgomery County has committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2027 and 100% by 2035 and has issued its draft Climate Action Plan outlining the steps to achieve that goal. Here are some of the ways HB0583 complements and supports Montgomery County’s CAP and helps significantly in achieving the County’s greenhouse gas reduction goals.

- Increasing the State GHG reduction goals thereby narrowing the gap between County and State goals.
- Increasing State energy efficiency requirements from 2 % to 3 % which will provide more funding for County building energy efficiency improvements.
- Providing funding from the State Transportation Trust Fund for zero emission public transit buses.
- Providing funding from the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund for ambitious tree planting with a carve-out for urban areas that can help with County carbon sequestration and heat adaptation goals.
- Providing loans for net zero school buildings from the State Strategic Energy Investment Fund which can help electrify County schools.
- Providing a personal property tax exemption for community solar projects located on rooftops, parking lots, or brownfields that primarily benefit low-income households, thereby incentivizing community solar in the County.
- Supporting environmental justice and economic goals by requiring the Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities to identify communities disproportionately impacted by climate change and to set a percentage of state climate funds that must be spent in those communities, and by creating a new Work Group to make policy recommendations for how to best serve transitioning fossil fuel workers in Maryland.

For these reasons we urge you to vote favorably for HB0583.